

HOPEFUL CAME TO BENEFIT

Celebrated Authoress Was Inspired by Conditions Brought to Her Notice.

The death of Mrs. John H. Law, recently of Chicago, recalls the association of two Southern families, the Tichenors and the Overakers, with the writing of Harriet Beecher Stowe's famous book, "Uncle Tom's Cabin."

Mrs. Law, whose maiden name was Georgia Overaker, was the last of the original Overaker family at Natchez, Miss., who came North during slavery time and settled in Cincinnati. She is survived by her husband, John H. Law, of Chicago, and six children, Mrs. Laura Law Meek, Charles Green Law, and Miss Lucy A. Law, of Chicago; Mrs. Charles W. Bell, of Cincinnati; Mrs. A. S. Taylor, of Cleveland, and Mrs. John Haddock, of New York, and a niece, Mrs. C. C. Hearn, of Fort Totten, N. Y., the author's only relative.

The connection of the Overaker family with Mrs. Stowe's book is shown in the following article published by Lippincott's some time ago and headed "How Uncle Tom's Cabin Came to Be Written."

If there is anything in foreordination, Harriet Beecher Stowe was predestined to write "Uncle Tom's Cabin." She did not intend to do it. She said that for many years of her life she avoided all reading upon or allusion to the subject of slavery. But in Cincinnati it was thrust upon her at every turn.

Incident Arouses Interest.

An incident which increased her interest in the problem of freedom was the coming to Walnut Hills of a family from the far South, who for conscience sake had separated themselves from the associations of their lifetime and sought a home in the then unbroken forests of the banks of the Ohio. Here the Tichenors and Overakers, family of aristocratic English descent, made for themselves a home in the Southern style, the first of those really dual estates of which so many now crown the banks of the Ohio and the crests of Cincinnati hills.

This family brought with them a retinue of house servants in order to set them free. They were scattered among the various families of this lovely vicinity, some being employed at one time or another in Prof. Stowe's family, and some in that of his next neighbor, also a professor in the seminary. One of these neighbors has said that she has seen Mrs. Stowe sit whole afternoons watching the children of the two families and the young blacks at play.

First Saw Topsy.

It was then and there that Mrs. Stowe saw Topsy, and took the comical likeness in unflattering colors. Topsy was a stray bit of ebony humanity that in some unrecorded way came to be one of the pickaninies perched on the portico of the Overaker mansion in New Orleans, where the family had a winter home, or hung around the quarters, ran errands, and played with the dogs on the Tichenor plantation.

She was such a little imp of darkness that "that limb was past saving," and so she was left among the field hands, who were to work out their freedom there on the plantation at Natchez. But the case of the abandoned wife appeared to the sympathy of Mrs. Stowe's neighbor, and the selfish Topsy was brought North and placed in the family of the young professor to be trained for service.

It must be confessed that the effort to develop her into a reasonable being was not a shining success. Joan-for that was her name—lived the day of the abandoned stratum of Cincinnati life and was seen no more by her former friends till the day of Mrs. Tichenor's funeral.

Black Sam Also.

Black Sam also, he of the "obnoxious" faculty, was at service in the same family, but he will be best remembered by the act of putting the beechnut under Haley's saddle when they were about to start after Eliza. Others of the small fry named were of the same group.

It was at Walnut Hills also that Mrs. Stowe knew the original of Uncle Pete in "Dred," or "Nina Gordon," as it was afterward called. He was then an old man, known as "Colored Williams," and he certainly was of a "rock-fast" and deep-set black dye as mortal flesh could take. Like that faithful old soul who took care of the Peyton children and always spoke of himself and them as "we Peyton folks," so this devoted retainer of the professor's families for half a century spoke of himself and them as "we seminary folks." Peace to his gray ashes! He died a few years ago at Walnut Hills, aged, it was said, 112 years.

In 1850 Dr. Stowe had accepted a professorship at Bowdoin college in Brunswick when the fugitive slave law of that year was passed. This was the final fine which put the colors of the Seminary resolution to write something "which should hold up slavery to the world as a dramatic reality." She chose the form of a story, knowing well that Where Truth in closest words shall fall, Where Truth embodied in a tale Shall enter in at open door.

Not for many years did she write, but that she might execute the commission which the divine guide, by the nature of her genius and culture and by the circumstances of her life had laid upon her. The intense absorption of her theme held her away from every other interest, for circumstances were never less favorable to the execution of a great work.

She was then in the midst of heavy domestic cares, with a young family, and with a party of pupils in her family to whom she was imparting lessons daily with her own children, but the story was so much more intense a reality to her than any other earthly thing that the weekly installment for Dr. Bailey's National Era never failed to come. Dr. Jewett, who was to publish it, wrote to ask her not to make it too long, as the subject was not popular. Mrs. Stowe replied that she did not make the story, that the story made her, and that she could not stop till it was done.

This feeling increased in intensity to the end. It is even said that in those last days of her life she had said: "God wrote it. I merely did his dictation."

TO MAKE SEWING EASY.

A small cake of white soap kept in the machine drawer is a great saver of machine needles and makes sewing easier. When a thick place, such as the crossing of two seams, is reached in stitching, rub the needle with the soap, and the needle will pass through it as if by magic, without breaking or even bending. This treatment is particularly valuable when one is stitching sheer lawns or mousselines and using a very fine needle.—Farm and Fireside.

JIM O'HARA BACK ON REFEREE JOB

Baltimore Man May Handle Soldier Burns-Dick Nelson Bout.

BALTIMORE, Md., Sept. 15.—There is a possibility that Jim O'Hara will be the referee in the fifteen-round bout Thursday night between Soldier Burns and Fighting Dick Nelson, of New York, before the Eureka Athletic Club at Germania McEnnerch Hall.

For the past two years, O'Hara has been out of the limelight. He tired of the game and went into retirement. Until the past year or so, O'Hara refereed all of the big fights in this city. He was the judge of the battles between Young Peter Jackson and Philadelphia Jack O'Brien, Joe Gans and Mike (Twin) Sullivan, Kid Sullivan and Young Corbett, and others too numerous to mention. While O'Hara has not yet been definitely decided upon for the selection of a referee has narrowed down to O'Hara and Abe Ullman, who, during the last season, made a good reputation as a referee.

REALTY TRANSFERS.

1217 Vermont avenue northwest—Ernest H. Merrick et ux., Nellie, to Henry F. Woodward, lot K, square 245, \$10.

Moore & Barbour's Addition—Frank Feer et al. to Julius I. Peyer, lot 9, block 1, \$10.

Marion street, between P and Q streets northwest—Richard C. Drum Hunt et ux., Evelyn C., to William F. Leonard, parts lots 30 and 31, square 445, \$10.

G street, between Ninth and Tenth streets southeast—Mary A. Suppes and District of Columbia to Francis H. Aradine, lot 2, square 1, square 349, and part lot 16, square 347, \$10.

Benning Heights—The Valley Realty Company, Inc., to Edgar and Anna C. Stinson, lots 20 to 23 and 10, block 683, 4, 15, 16, 17, 18, and 17, block 684, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, block 685, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, block 686, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, block 687, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, block 688, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, block 689, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, block 690, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, block 691, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, block 692, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, block 693, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, block 694, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, block 695, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, block 696, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, block 697, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, block 698, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, block 699, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, block 700, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, block 701, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, block 702, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, block 703, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, block 704, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, block 705, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, block 706, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, block 707, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, block 708, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, block 709, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, block 710, 15, 16, 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